

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/721,770

Applicant(s)

SASAOKA, YOSHIMASA

Examiner

King Y. Poon

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 11/12/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 November 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

**KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER**



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1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The invention is directed to feeding a printing sheet to an image forming unit from a sheet supply unit being disposed in parallel with the image forming unit.

Independent claim 1 identifies the uniquely distinct features of "wherein sheet feeding paths from at least some of the sheet supply trays to the image forming unit are constructed as a bypass feeding path extending from the farther sides of the sheet supply trays from the image forming unit, and a cover which is opened and closed disposed to face the bypass feeding path is provided to the farther side of the unit case from the image forming unit."

Independent claim 4 identifies the uniquely distinct features of "sheet feeding paths from at least some of the sheet supply trays are constructed as a bypass feeding path extending from the farther sides of the sheet supply trays from the image forming unit, and a cover which is opened or closed and disposed to face the bypass feeding path is provided to the farther side of the unit case from the image forming unit."

The closest prior arts Ushio et al (US 5,528,353) disclosed a conventional method of feeding a printing sheet to an image forming unit from a sheet supply unit (41A, 41B, 41C, fig. 1) being disposed in parallel with the image forming unit (3, fig. 1); either singularly or in combination fail to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious (to be used with other claimed limitations).

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2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to King Y. Poon whose telephone number is (571) 272-7440.

5/18/05

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'King Y. Poon', is positioned above the printed name and title.

**KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER**